City of Pelham
City Council Work Session

January 5, 2009

MINUTES

Members of the Pelham City Council met on January 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. with President Mike Dickens presiding. The meeting was held in the conference room and open to the public.

The following elected officials were present:

Mayor Don Murphy
Mike Dickens, Council President
Bill Meadows, Councilmember
Karyl Rice, Councilmember
Steve Powell, Councilmember

Absent: Teresa Nichols, Councilmember

Media Present: None

Others present: Eva Shepherd, Chief Danny Endress, Tom Seale, Jesse Jowers, Marc Thompson & Jim Littleton – CDG Engineers & Associates

Karyl Rice moved to approve the December 15, 2008 work session minutes as written, and Bill Meadows seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Murphy commented on the following items:

1) Teresa Nichols' request to publish a directory of Pelham businesses. A memo from Mike Morgan with comments from the Alabama League was distributed for council review. Steve Powell suggested that business license forms could be revised to grant authorization if the business would allow their name, address and phone number to be published in a local business directory.
2) The Memorial Walkway for the Alabama National Cemetery. Mayor Murphy would like to send a letter of intent to have a Pelham monument along the Memorial Walkway. Karyl Rice moved to allow Mayor Murphy to proceed by sending Ms. Quincy M. Whitehead, Director of the Alabama National Cemetery a letter of intent for city participation in the Memorial Walkway. Bill Meadows seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3) Resolution 07. Mayor Murphy asked that the resolution be withdrawn in current form. The council will work to negotiate a lower cost with Bradley Arant for governmental affairs representation in Washington, D.C.

Maurice Mercer joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Teresa Nichols joined the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Officials discussed general municipal business and items on the council agenda.

The agenda was amended as follows: Resolution 3 would have a first reading and the clerk would contact the Alabama Symphony to ask them to provide a new agreement with more specific wording on the benefits to Pelham residents. Resolution 5 would have a first reading. Resolution 6 concerning public works major arterial improvements was tabled to allow time to get a cost estimate from an architect. Resolution 7 was removed from the agenda at the request of the Mayor. A discussion followed concerning the firm's fee and negotiations were left with the council. Mike Dickens asked for feedback from the council concerning Resolution 7, and Bill Meadows mentioned a special meeting might need to be called since the matter is time sensitive.

A discussion was held concerning the manner in which the city handles bid approvals. The current process includes following the bid law, referring bids received to the department head for evaluation and written recommendation to the council, developing a spreadsheet listing all bids received and a resolution for council consideration. Steve Powell's comments indicated his concern the council was not following the law concerning accepting bids. There was no clear answer on how the council wishes to improve the process. Karyl Rice and Bill Meadows said they would contact the Alabama League for further clarification.

Resolution 8 concerning a proposed agreement with CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. for sidewalk engineering was discussed. Jesse Jowers commented on the agreement and stated the city had been working on it since 2007. It was decided the council would vote on Resolution 08 at their meeting and not require a first reading.

Mayor Murphy introduced Eva Shepherd, Marketing Director.

With no further business before the council, Karyl Rice moved to adjourn, and Steve Powell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Donna Treslar
_____________________________ Donna Treslar, City Clerk